These projects are expected to contribute about 26.704 million tonnes of crude oil production during the 8th Plan period. These projects are expected to cost about Rs. 10561 crores.

Demand and supply of LPG

504. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic demand of LPG is estimated to be 6.2 million tonnes whereas the likely supply by the Oil Companies is estimated to be 3.1 million tonnes as reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi, dt. 16.1.95;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the demand of LPG will increase annually by 6 per cent hitting 8.7 million tonnes by 2,000 A.D. whereas at present LPG network covers only 20 million households in the country;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to clear the pending applications for LPG connections and for increasing annual production thereof indicating the total number of applications received/ cleared during 1994-95; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up any new Gas plants in Rajasthan and Orissa, if so, the details thereof, indicating whether the same are proposed in the Public or in the Private Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the report published in Financial Express, New Delhi dated 26.1.1995. The potential demand of LPG in the country is considerably higher than the indigenous production. The oil industry has assessed the potential demand of LPG in the country as 6.2 MAT during 1994-95 and 6.17 MMT by the year 1999-2000. As per a survey regarding assessment of potential LPG demand in the country by an agency, which was commissioned by the Oil Industry, the growth rate for domestic demand was projected as 4.9 per cent.

Plans have been drawn to augment the availability of LPG in the country through commissioning of new sources, higher production from the existing sources, development of new import facilities and augmentation of existing import facilities. Government has also allowed import and sale of LPG by private agencies through their own net-work at market determined prices. The target for enrolment of new LPG customers during 1994-95 has been fixed at 20 lakhs, which has been achieved.

(d) At present two new LPG bottling plants are proopsed to be set up by public sector oil companies at Udaipur and Bikaner in Rajasthan with 10 TMTPA and 22 TMTPA capacity respectively. There is no proposal by any Government oil company at present to set up LPG bottling plant in Orissa.

Discovery of oil off the Kerala Coast

505. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil bearing structure has been found off the Kerala coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the plan for oil exploration in the Kerala region in the coming years?